

The Evolution and Interpretation of "Statistical Purposes"

Sallie Ann Keller, PhD

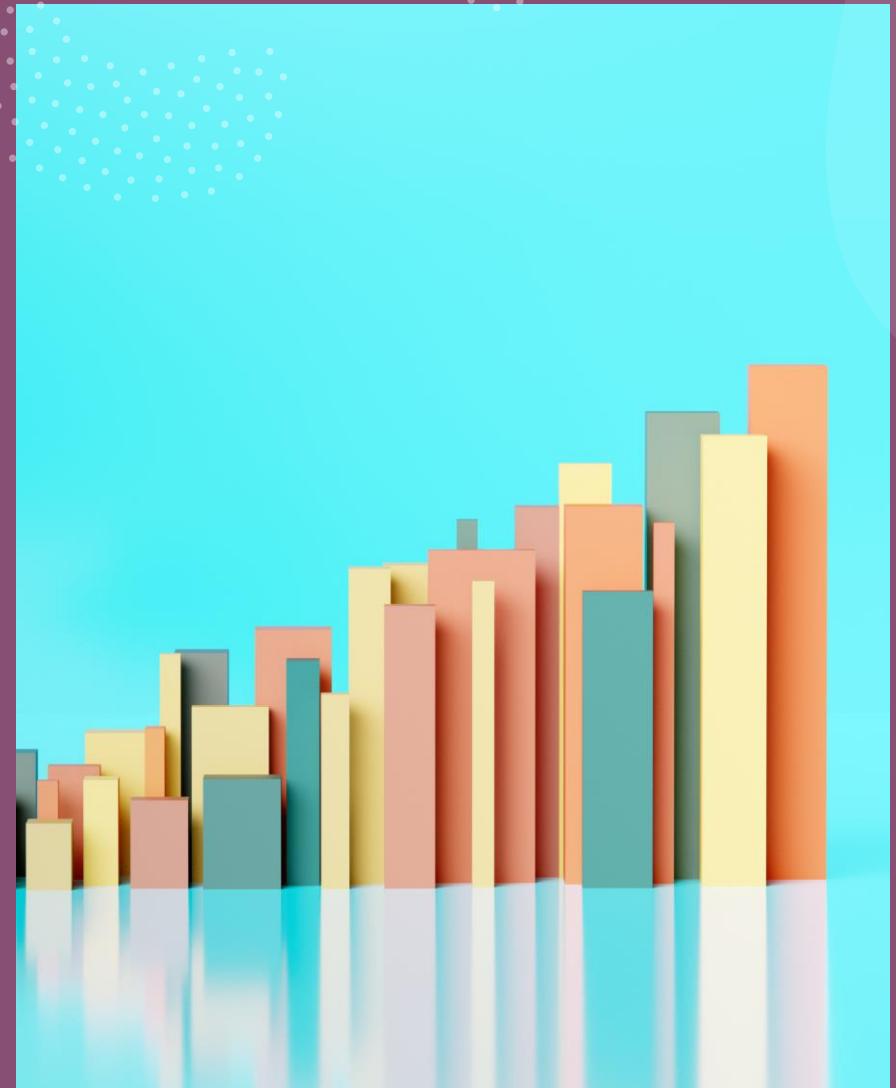
&

Michael B. Hawes

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

January 28, 2026

Any viewpoints or opinions expressed are the presenters' own and do not represent the viewpoints or opinions of the U.S. Census Bureau



Openness: Do you know why we are collecting your information?

 We collect information only for statistical purposes, and it is never individuals. Before participating, you have the right to know why we

U.S. Census Bureau, [“Our Privacy Principles”](#)

About confidentiality

Data are used only for statistical purposes. and reports using NEHRS data, individual an

National Center for Health Statistics,
[National Electronic Health Records Survey](#)

Confidentiality of Data Collected

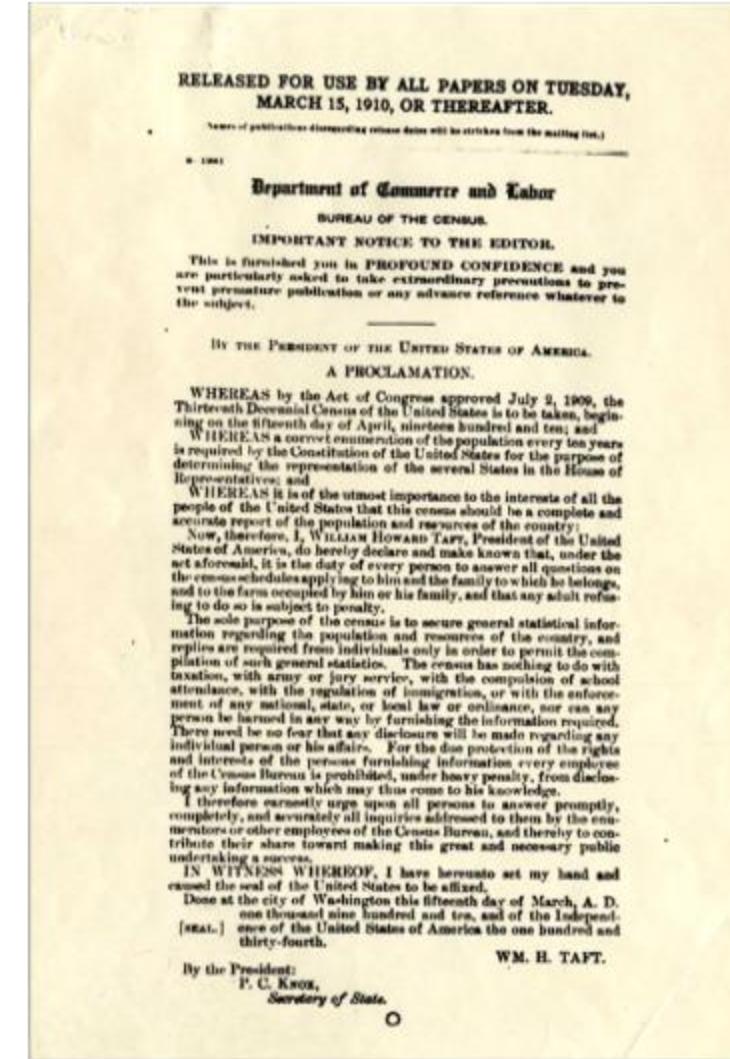
The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is strongly committed ensuring that it is used only for statistical purposes. This p contract employees or employees of state agencies workin

Bureau of Labor Statistics,
[Import/Export Price Indexes](#)

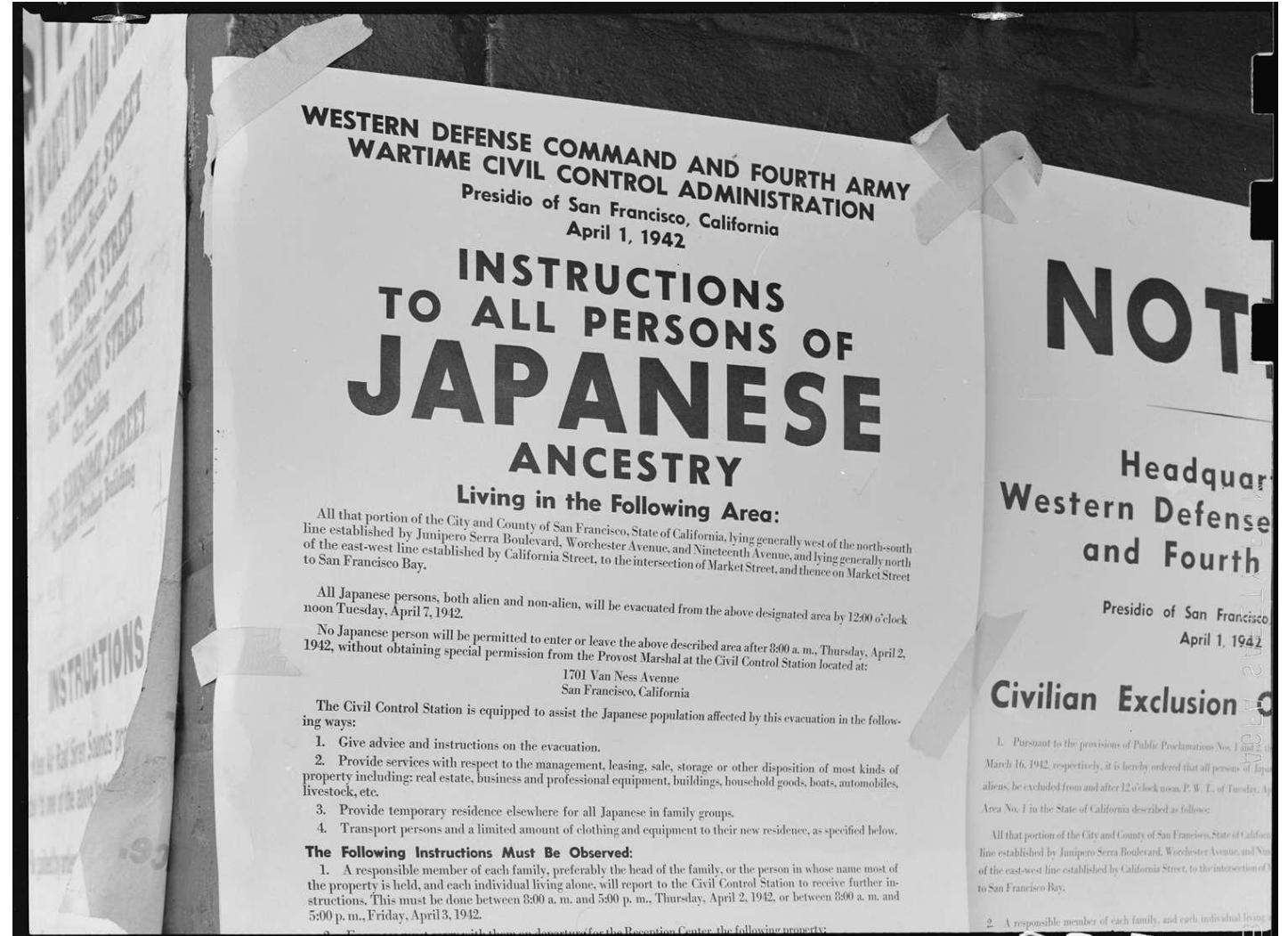
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James Wilson ^{Esq; Judge of Court of Law & Cis.}	230	a
Vac. 230	3	3
Baltus Emick	231	a
Vac. 231	1	2
Charles Schultz ^{2d. Stott}	232	a
Elizabeth Rose	233	a
John Hinckle	240	a
Vac. 242	1	2
Thomas Margatroyd	244	a
Daniel Russell	245	a
Thomas Mifflin ^{Govr. State}	248	a
Ann York ^{Widow}	250	a
Vac. 252	1	2
John W I DeGraham	254	a
Benjamin Stroemer	256	a
Vac. 258	1	3
Henry Kline	260	a
Vac. 262	264	a
do. 266	2	1
Henry Kream	268	a
Vac. 270	2	1
Joseph Ogden	270	a
William Lowman	272	a
Lepus New Houses ²⁷⁴	274	a
Vac. 276	276	a
Vac. 278	2	1
William Hamilton No Capt.	280	a
Remainder Vacant to North Street		
Van Berkel Minister from New Haven ¹⁷⁰⁰	2926	15193966 3072
Gov. Jefferson Lat. of State & the like		
Edmund Randolph At't Genl. At't		

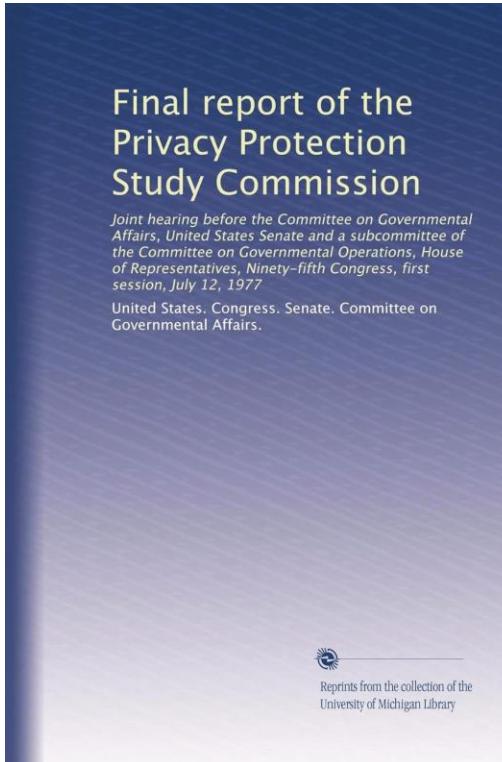
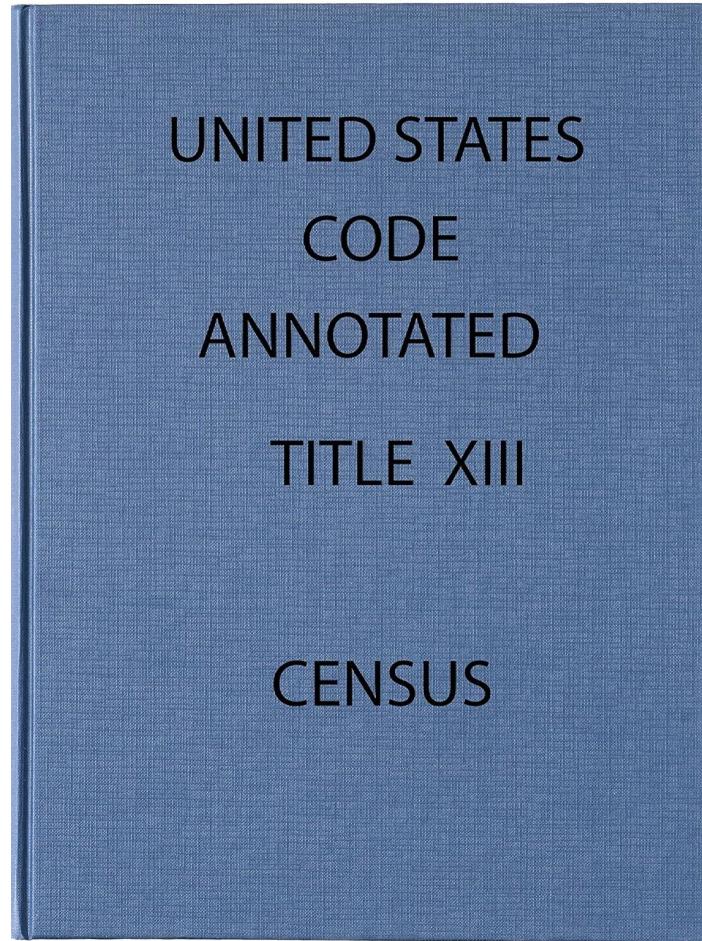
The 1790 Census and the first hundred years

1910s - 1920s



The Second World War





1950s-
1970s

1990s-2010s

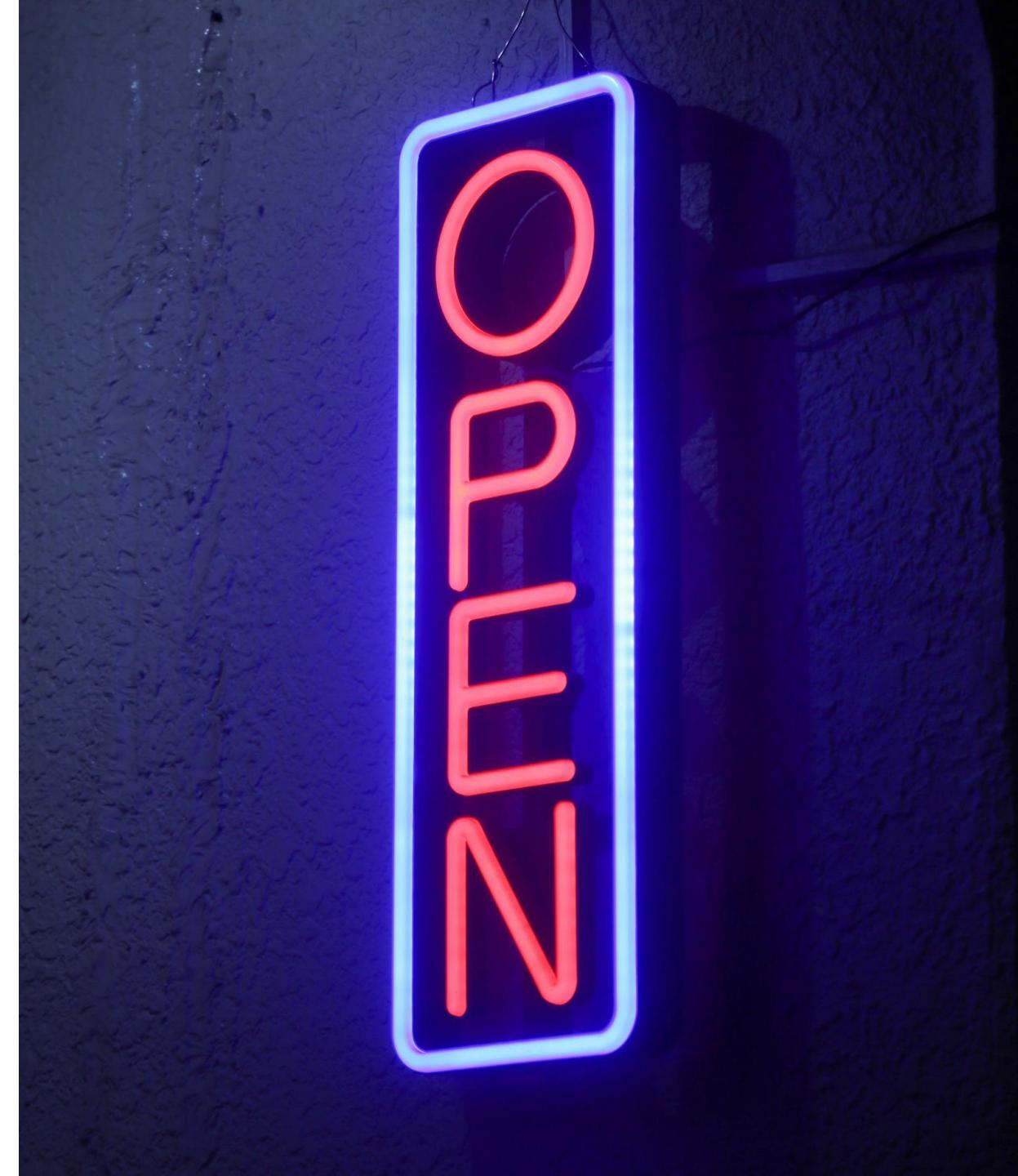




Looking Ahead

“Statistical Purposes” and the Future of Federal Statistics

Preserving “Statistical Purposes” While Increasing Access to Government Data and Statistics



Executive Order 14303

Restoring ^IGold Standard Science

Executive Orders

May 23, 2025

Information Quality Act (2001)

- Directs OMB and federal agencies to issue guidelines on data quality

OMB Information Quality Guidelines (2002)

- Requires agencies to establish standards for ensuring data quality

Statistical Policy Directives #1 (2014) and #2 (2006)

- Establishes minimum data quality standards for the federal statistical system

Census Bureau Statistical Quality Standards

- Extension and elaboration of OMB's guidelines for Census Bureau information products

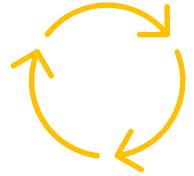
Professional Codes of Practice and other Frameworks

- Directs OSTP to issue guidance
- Directs agencies to report to OSTP on their activities

OSTP Memo (June 2025)

- Elaborates on the 9 tenets of Gold Standard Science

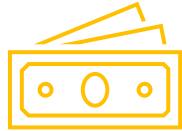
Tenets of Gold Standard Science



Reproducible



Skeptical of Findings
and Assumptions



Without Conflict of
Interest



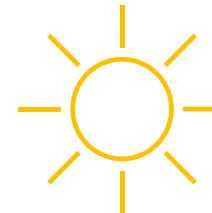
Unbiased Peer Review



Communicative of
Error and Uncertainty



Structured for
Falsifiability of
Hypotheses



Transparent



Accepting of Negative
Results as Positive
Outcomes



Collaborative and
Interdisciplinary

Scientific Rigor,
Professional Codes of Practice,
Internal & External Peer Review

Questions

